



THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

Today at 5:15

Weekly Bible Studies

Tuesday at 1 on Zoom

Friday at 1 on Zoom

Saturday, 10, Panera

(Georgetown)

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a
short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

September 2, 7:30

Address and Contact

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Christ

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ARE YOU READY? (3)

With Saul having gone back to Tarsus, the Christians still in Jerusalem may have anticipated a lessening of the oppression, but such was not to be. Acts 12 begins with Herod Agrippa I, the King of the Jews, taking his turn in persecuting Christians. *About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people.* If putting James to the sword pleased the Jews, then realizing what was anticipated for Peter is not difficult. Peter experienced his rescue by an angel of the Lord as a vision, but when he came to himself, he said, *"Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."* Maintaining their faith, the church prayed.

So far, first century Christians have shown a variety of responses to persecution, all of which proves them to have been ready for it whenever it occurred. They were ready to pack up and leave their homes, be imprisoned, undergo violent attacks, and even killed. They were not ready to lose their faith and fail in their commitment as Christians. I'm sure some did, but the vast majority did not. Acts 12 ends with the gruesome death of King Herod, and, in contrast this statement: *But the word of God increased and multiplied. (Acts 12:24)*

Once Paul began to preach Christ, persecution followed him almost everywhere. The first opposition they (Paul and Barnabas) faced was a Jewish false prophet, a magician. Sergius Paulus, the proconsul on the Island of Cyprus, had called for Paul and Barnabas to proclaim the word of God to him. The magician, however, tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith. I suspect that false teaching would not routinely be listed as one of the many ways in which Christians are persecuted, but for a false teacher to prevail he often must resort to ridicule, verbal attacks, and other non-physical means to oppose the truth. It is significant that Paul lists false teachers among his persecutions. *Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times*

Members Needing Our Prayers

The family of Richelle Banks,
The Spivey family, Gary
Brown, Joyce Bolton, Julie
Patton, Rick Small, Benny
Poynter, Richard and Janet
Brundige, Rhonda Boyd,
Cindy Bradbury, Paul
Atkisson

Others Needing Prayer

Charles Bishop, Brian Mason,
Ernestine Byers, Glen Perkins,
Allison Walker, Dwight Antle,
Randy Cates, Larry McTeer,
Charlene Michael, Ann Little,
Mary Jean Snyder, Mark
Nickles, Adam Fusco Duane
Harrod, Grace Meyer,
Meredith Nicholson, Alice and
Lonnie Anderson, Glen
Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry
Daniels, Leroy Weatherholt,
Robert Brundige, William
Roberts, Paul and Marrian
Lyda, Dana and her children,
Shane (a relative of Cindi),
Ron Harmon

To Our Guests

Interested in a Bible study?
Either let one of us know or
mark it on your visitor card.

Visit us on Facebook,
YouTube, or our website to
watch or listen to sermons.

*I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, **danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers**; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food,^[b] in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? (2 Corinthians 11:23-29)*

Paul came to Antioch next. In the synagogue, he gave an impassioned account of Israel's history and its connection with Jesus. He ended with a warning for those who might scoff at his words. A careful study of Paul's speech is worthwhile as it contains phrases and expressions that beg for meditation. On the next sabbath, almost the entire city turned out to hear Paul. But the Jews became jealous and *began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. (Acts 13:45)* Not content with their contradictions and reviling's, they *incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 13:51-52)*

One more article in this series is planned in which persecution of the first century church will be followed through the letters to the seven churches of Asia. John Thompson

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
	Marcus Lake	
	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

